

Page 17 of 18

22 October, 2004

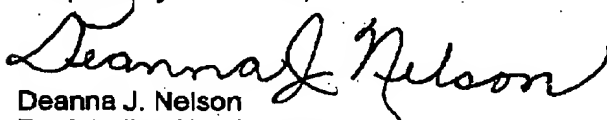
chelates are useful as anti-chelates of his invention. Likewise, he has disclosed methods for the preparation of chelate-fluorophore tracer compositions of two types: (1) target metal ion chelate-fluorophore tracer compositions in which a target metal is chelated to an organic ligand; and (2) non-target metal ion chelate-fluorophore tracer compositions in which a non-target metal is chelated to an organic ligand. Applicant respectfully requests examination of the claims that disclose his invention.

Applicant respectfully requests that if claims are allowed, the other inventions that were asserted in the Office Action of September 22, 2004, be rejoined.

Applicant respectfully submits that examination of his application has been unreasonably delayed by the Office and requests that if claims are allowed, the term of the resulting letters patent be extended by a period of time equal to that of the unreasonable delay, a period of approximately 18 months.

Should additional information be required, Deanna J. Nelson is representing Applicant before the Office. She is available by telephone at (919) 678-9478 during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday and by facsimile at (919) 678-9474.

Respectfully submitted,


Deanna J. Nelson
Registration Number 44,968

